

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (cancelled)

Claim 2. (new): A device for reducing the vertebral stress on a person sleeping prone on a sleep surface without requiring the face of the person to be directed toward the sleep surface, said device comprising a head piece and a plurality of other elements, wherein said head piece and said plurality of other elements are deployable on said sleep surface so that when said person lies prone on said sleep surface, a cheek of said person is supported by said head piece, wherein said head piece has a head-piece shape that results in said cheek forming a particular cheek angle with said surface, wherein said head-piece shape is chosen so as to ensure that said cheek angle is large enough that any amount of said stress that occurs is minimal but without said cheek angle being so large that said face is directed downward.

Claim 3. (new): The device of Claim 2, wherein said head piece presents a wedge shape to said cheek when said head piece supports said cheek of said person, and wherein said wedge shape is characterized by a head-piece thickness increasing from a head-piece thin edge to a head-piece thick end with a rate of increase determined by a head-wedge angle.

Claim 4. (new): The device of Claim 3, wherein with said head piece in place and said person lying on said surface, said cheek is in contact with an upper surface of said head piece and said person is facing said head-piece thin edge.

Claim 5. (new): The device of Claim 4, wherein said plurality of other elements includes a torso piece, wherein said torso piece is deployable between said surface and a torso of said person in such manner as to prevent said torso from rolling in a head-turn-increasing angle.

Claim 6. (new): The device of Claim 5, wherein said torso piece is wedge shaped and said torso piece has a torso-piece thickness such that said torso-piece thickness increases from a torso-piece thin edge to torso-piece thick edge.

Claim 7. (new): The device of Claim 5, wherein when said device is deployed with said person said torso-piece thin end is fitted under one edge of said torso and wherein said torso-piece thickness increases in a distal direction from said edge of said torso.

Claim 8. (new): The device of Claim 7, wherein when said device is deployed on a bed having a longitudinal axis and said person is sleeping parallel to said longitudinal axis, said head-piece thickness increases in a first transverse direction with respect to said longitudinal axis and said torso-piece thickness increases in a second transverse direction with respect to said longitudinal direction, wherein first transverse direction is opposite to second transverse direction.

Claim 9. (new): The device of Claim 2, wherein said head piece is comprised of a head block, a head-block cover fitted tightly over said head block, and a head pillow enveloping said head block and said head-block cover, and wherein said head block is wedge-shaped with a varying thickness defined by a head-piece angle.

Claim 10. (new): The device of Claim 9, wherein said head block is made of a hard material, said head-block cover is made of a thin soft material, and said head pillow is soft and sufficiently compressible that head-wedge angle determines said cheek angle of said person lying prone on said sleep surface.

Claim 11. (new): The device of Claim 5, wherein said torso piece is comprised of a torso block made of a non-yielding material, a torso-block cover fitted tightly over said torso block, and a torso pillow enveloping said torso block and said torso-block cover, and wherein said torso block is wedge-shaped with a varying thickness defined by a torso-piece angle.